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September 7, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU FALL ENROLLMENT UP

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University's fall enrollment of 11,424 is up 123 students from a year ago, continuing the desired trend of a stable enrollment for the university.

"We would not have been able to boost enrollment had it not been for the efforts of the admissions and continuing education staffs and the university's faculty, staff and students, whose contributions have led to continued interest in Eastern's programs. Students tell us they like it at Eastern because of the small classes, personal attention and quality education they receive," said EIU Vice President for Student Affairs Lou Hencken.

Frank Hohengarten, dean of enrollment management, also is pleased that enrollment is up, particularly since Eastern had one of the largest graduating class in its history last year.

"The admissions and continuing education staffs used some new recruiting

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methods this year, and they obviously paid off. Our top priority was to give more personalized attention to our applicants."

The most significant increase in enrollment is in the university's off-campus programs, which enrolled 857 students this fall compared to 762 a year ago, a 12.5 percent increase.

EIU's on-campus enrollment also increased by 28 students from 10,539 last fall to 10,567 this fall.

"We are excited about the growth in our off-campus programs. It shows that there is a strong demand by adult students for these programs," said Will Hine, dean of the School of Adult and Continuing Education.

The school offers credit courses in nine communities in the EIU service region at a variety of community colleges, school districts and other institutions.

Eastern's minority and international student populations also grew from 965 students last fall to 1,027 this fall. The most notable increase is in the international and black student populations. International students number 132 this fall, compared to 119 last fall. Blacks number 618, compared to 576 a year ago. Other minority groups remained relatively the same.

Caucasian students make up 91 percent of the student body, with the remaining 9 percent international and minority students.

Hencken and Hohengarten said EIU recruiters have placed greater emphasis

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on attracting minorities for the past several years. "Their efforts are finally paying off," commented Hohengarten.

Programs, such as Partnerships for Excellence for academically-talented minority high school students, have been successful in drawing minorities to Eastern and creating a more culturally diverse campus. Eastern's goal is to become a community that better reflects the make-up of today's world.

The number of sophomores, juniors and graduate students enrolled this fall also is up, with full-time undergraduate students continuing to be the vast majority of Eastern's student population.

A breakdown of the 11,424 students (with last year's total in parentheses) is: freshmen, 2,399 (2,489); sophomores, 2,123 (2,036); juniors, 2,527 (2,453); seniors, 2,775 (2,891); and graduate students, 1,600 (1,432).

Of the total, 426 students are enrolled in the university's Honors Programs, up from 354 last year.

Hencken said the slight decrease in freshmen was intentional. "Any more than that and we wouldn't have been able to accommodate them or maintain academic quality."

Hencken noted that Eastern continues to enroll a large number of transfer students who typically come to the university from two-year community colleges.

Popular feeder community colleges are Lake Land (Mattoon), Illinois Eastern (Olney, Robinson, Mt. Carmel, Fairfield), Parkland (Champaign), the College of

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DuPage (Glen Ellyn) and Lincolnland (Springfield).

Most students, however, are recruited from Illinois high schools across the state. The top 10 Illinois high schools in rank order are Charleston, Mattoon, Mother McAuley (Chicago), Lincoln-Way (New Lenox), Effingham, East Richland (Olney), Downers Grove South, Homewood-Flossmoor, Lyons Township (La-Grange) and Brother Rice (Chicago).

A large number of EIU students come from Cook, DuPage and Will counties, as well as from the immediate east central Illinois area.